



Maine Department of Health and Human Services

MECMS Update 45

January 9, 2006

Billing News & Tips

If you are ready to reconcile interim payments, these are the steps to follow

As you may be aware, DHHS is currently reconciling interim payments with providers. When we determine that you are ready for interim payment reconciliation, we will send you a letter listing the options for how interim payments may be recovered.

Please note that unless you are designated for alternative treatment, you will not be asked to reconcile until we know that your claims are processing at an acceptable level.

Over the past month, we received a number of requests from providers wanting to send the State a check in the amount of their interim payment balances. Because of this, we implemented a program to meet the needs of these providers. On request, we supplied records of a provider's interim payment checks to reconcile the State's records with their own. Providers then sent their check to the State. The success of this initiative indicates a strong desire among many in the provider community to settle interim payment balances.


With this in mind, we will extend and expand the program to other providers who are ready and willing to repay their interim payments.

If you want to repay interim payments, we will supply you with your interim payment history showing your current payment balances. Then you may submit a reconciliation check. Please

note that the information you receive will be your most recent interim payment balance, but may not reflect the ultimate amount needed to fully reconcile interim payments. We will make every attempt to provide you with your payment balance within a week of your request.

To simplify and expedite these requests, please send your repayment request to the Interim Payments Reconciliation Team at the following e-mail address or fax number:

 e-mail: IPRT@maine.gov

 fax: (207) 624-5026

Please include the following information for all provider numbers you intend to settle:

1. All MECMS provider billing ID number(s) for which settlement information is needed.
2. A return e-mail address that may be used to respond to the request, including contact name and phone number.

Important note: Should you receive any additional unsolicited interim payments, please return each check to:

Attn: Interim Payment Reconciliation Team
Division of Policy and Provider Services
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

We appreciate the providers who made this initiative a success and those of you who are ready to repay your interim payment balances through this process.

Temporary portal gives you online access to claim status information

The Office of MaineCare Services now has a temporary provider portal where you can check claim status within MECMS. The portal enables you to see the status of all claims, at the header level, for all business statuses, including claims that are suspended.

The portal will be in place until we can provide more extensive online access and make the full HIPAA transaction exchanges operational.

This temporary solution does not provide line-level detail or explain why a claim suspended. If you request additional information for individual billing numbers, for any specified dates of services and for any business status, we will put that information in a results file in a secure online location for you to pick up.

To use the portal, you need to obtain a user ID and a password. Call the number included in the instruction manual available at http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bms/innerthird/temp_prov_portal.htm. The URL for the portal is also included in the instructions.

You can now do online research on claims denied as duplicates

An MECMS Denied Duplicate Claims Lookup tool is now available on the MECMS page of our website. We have designed this online database to assist you in researching a claim denied as a duplicate and identified with a remark code N111 on the Remittance Advice statement (RA).

To access the database that is updated weekly, use this URL:
http://portalxw.bisoex.state.me.us/oms/dup_claims/dup_claims_lkp.asp.

The site gives you these tips for entering and interpreting data:

1. You must enter the Claim Line TCN in the first section that is a blue box.

Entering a Claim Header TCN will not retrieve any information.

2. A claim header-level Transaction Control Number (TCN) is an 18-digit number where the last three digits are zeros. A line-level TCN replaces the last three digits with the Line # from the RA zero-filled to the left. For example, an RA with a TCN of 992005251123456000 and a Line #3 would be 992005251123456003.
3. Hospitals that receive prospective payments should reference the Allowed Amount column. The Paid Amount will always show \$0.00.
4. If the Pay Date information does not display, for additional assistance, please contact the MaineCare Billing & Information Unit at 1-800-321-5557 or 207-624-7539.
5. In accordance with HIPAA standards, the information displayed does not identify the provider or the member. Keeping this security in mind, please be sure to double check the TCN you enter. ■

Contact Us

E-mail us at: BMS.inquiry@maine.gov

Call us at: 1-800-321-5557
TTY: 1-800-423-4331
Augusta area: 207-624-7539

On the web at: www.maine.gov/dhhs/bms

Write us at: Inquiry Unit
Office of MaineCare Services
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

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